

VENICE, WITH BUT 1000 PEOPLE LEFT, IS MELANCHOLY PICTURE

(Correspondence Associated Press.)

WITH THE FRENCH ARMY IN ITALY, Dec. 15.—Before the menace of the modern Hun, Venice, whose lagoons centuries ago furnished an asylum of safety for refugees fleeing from Attila, is today almost empty. Of the 150,000 persons who ordinarily inhabit the city, only about 1,000 remain. But this is not because Venice fears for her own protection. Across the battlefield of the reeds it is believed that no invader will penetrate to the islands of the Venetian lagoons. The city puts her trust in the lagoons as confidently as she trusted to the sea in olden times.

To the visitor in Venice in these days when the invading army lies only a short march distant, one of the odd memories of the war will be that of the music of the great guns booming from the Lido and the nests of reeds in the northern lagoon. That music accompanies you all day in Venice.

The Queen of the Adriatic has her face to the foe. She has shut her shops and sent her merchandise away. The army or the navy have taken her young men. Those that remain have bricked up or sand-bagged her churches and monuments and now await the issue in entire calm, confident that although the enemy is no more than a long gun shot away, it is not at her own gates that Venice is menaced.

From Burano, a motorboat takes you through a maze of channels into the canal Silone, where you thread your way between reed-covered banks toward the mainland. You can see

nothing but the channel and the reeds. There is not a roof nor a spire in sight. We are getting up to what may be called the artillery defense line of Venice. On the way we passed a British monitor with her big guns pointed inland. The coast batteries and big guns monitors constitute another defense line. Here in the salt channel between the islands we come suddenly upon a floating battery or pontoon, as the Italians call them. It is a big steel barge mounting a gun which has been steadily pounding the Austrians on the Piave Vecchia all night. She is manned by sailors, for the artillery defense of Venice is entirely in the hands of the navy.

From Ponte Grandi, as far as the eye can see, the land is covered with a waste of muddy water with rows of half-submerged willows marking out the fields which it covers and here and there an isolated clump of farm buildings emerging from the floods. We are here on the edge of the Piave inundations and in another naval artillery defense belt. High banked roads, dikes and farm houses are all that remain above water. Some of these farm house islands are held by Austrians and some by Italians and it is the aim of both sides to destroy the farms held by the enemy. A few nights ago some Italian sailors undertook a cutting out expedition against one of the Austrian islands, captured and burned the buildings and came back with Austrian prisoners.

Nothing more dismal can be imagined than this battlefield among the reeds except the awful desolation

of the Flanders front. Unending water, half drowned willows and farm houses under a bitter winter sky compose about as melancholy a picture as even war presents. On many of the islands formed by the release of the floods to protect Venice are brave families clinging to their homes in the hope that 1918 will see the invader thrown back.

On this sector the Italians have a superiority of artillery. It is at night that the Italian guns do their hardest work. At night the Austrians always attempt to construct field works or to lay bridges of boats across the Piave Vecchia to the canals. They take a number of boats, tie them together and swing them out from one bank trusting to the current to float them into place on the other side. It is the business of the Italian floating batteries to drive away these bridge-builders and to destroy the fruits of their labors and this they do with surprising success.

In Venice, herself, I have seen no sign of actual damage, except a hole torn in the roof of San Giovanni and San Paolo by an Austrian airplane bomb. The front of San Marco and the pillars of the Doge's Palace have been bricked up so that nothing of them remains visible. The some precautions have been taken with the famous statue of Colonnato and, in fact, with all the monuments of the town that can be so protected.

In the Piazza di San Marco all the shops are closed, but a number are still open in the Merceria, and, although almost all the gondolas have vanished, it is still possible to find one to take up the Grand canal.

in Mesopotamia, with the rank of lieutenant colonel.

The consensus of opinion among football coaches and officials is that the play during the past season was unusually hard, yet exceptionally clean. The fighting spirit engendered by the world war appears to have permeated the gridiron sport with the result that football was played with a war time zest that marked the season as out of the ordinary.

Sleeves in Workshops.

Although time and again workmen have been warned regarding the danger of loose clothing when working around machinery, it appears that many of them persist in ignoring the danger. As a result 986 workmen were killed in the United States last year by being drawn into the wheels of machinery or thrown to death when parts of their clothing became caught in rotating members. Loose sleeves and neckties are prolific sources of danger and should not be tolerated for a single moment by the careful worker.

Application No. 4782.
Notice of Application for Permission to appropriate the Public Waters of the State of Nevada.

Notice is hereby given that on the 17th day of December, 1917, in accordance with Section 59, Chapter 19, of the Statutes of 1915, United Cattle & Packing Company, a corporation, of Reno, County of Washoe, and State of Nevada, made application to the State Engineer of Nevada for permission to appropriate the public waters of the State of Nevada. Such appropriation is to be made from Spanish Springs, at a point in the SW 1/4, Sec. 14, T. 7 N., R. 44 E., M. D. B. & M., by means of a dam, and one cubic foot per second is to be conveyed to NW 1/4, Sec. 36, T. 7 N., R. 44 E., M. D. B. & M., by means of pipe line and troughs, and there used for irrigation and stock watering purposes, from January 1st until December 31st of each year. Water not to be returned to stream.

(Signed) J. G. SCRUGHAM, State Engineer.
Date of first publication, Dec. 25, 1917.
Date of last publication, Jan. 23, 1918.

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WHEN IN RENO CALL

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UNIVERSITY HEAD URGES THAT LAND BE GIVEN RETURNING U. S. SOLDIERS

(By Associated Press.)

IDAHO FALLS, Idaho, Jan. 16.—

The returning American soldier who finds his former occupation gone should be given a part of the public domain properly cleared or otherwise outfitted for immediate use at the government's expense, said F. H. Newell, head of the University of Idaho, in an address here today before the joint conference of agricultural, livestock, engineering and irrigation societies of Idaho.

Mr. Newell urged the immediate appropriation of \$100,000,000 or more by the government to put through irrigation and reclamation schemes and otherwise put the remaining public lands in such shape that the returned fighting man may go on with them with hope of securing a living return at once. Mr. Newell said, in part:

"In older days it was recognized as a matter of course that the conquerors should take from the van-

PRANKS BIG SHELLS PLAY.

Curious Effects of High Explosives Used in Modern War.

The explosive force of the big shells used in modern war has produced many curious effects. In some cases these effects have been to deprive men of the power of speech, in others to restore it. In the same way hearing has been lost and also regained, while sight has been suddenly banished and as suddenly brought back.

But one of the most astonishing effects of all was that narrated by a French captain. It occurred while he was occupying an observation post in a tree. An eight inch shell happened to explode immediately beneath him, with the result that the displacement of the air hurled him clean out of the tree. It also knocked him senseless for a few moments, and when he came to himself he made the amazing and disconcerting discovery that it had stripped him of his breeches, vest and tunic, leaving him, as he put it, "as bare as a worm."

Another soldier described the freak of a shell of which he was the victim. It exploded several yards away from him, without doing him any harm. But it blew his overcoat from his back, and when he picked the garment up it was minus all the buttons.

The eccentricity of another shell was sworn to by a trooper, who was certainly a very close observer. He was standing between two horses when the projectile burst close by, killing both animals, but not injuring the trooper in the slightest.

A Drop of Blood.

A drop of blood that might be suspended from the point of a needle can talis about a million red corpuscles.

Can't it itself properly a double distilled lie, the second power of a lie—Carlyle.

Application No. 4783.
Notice of Application for Permission to appropriate the Public Waters of the State of Nevada.

Notice is hereby given that on the 17th day of December, 1917, in accordance with Section 59, Chapter 140, of the Statutes of 1913, United Cattle and Packing Company, a corporation, of Reno, County of Washoe, and State of Nevada, made application to the State Engineer of Nevada for permission to appropriate the public waters of the State of Nevada. Such appropriation is to be made from Unnamed Spring, at a point in the SE 1/4, Sec. 16, T. 7 N., R. 44 E., M. D. B. & M., by means of a dam, and one cubic foot per second is to be conveyed to the SE 1/4, Sec. 16, T. 7 N., R. 44 E., M. D. B. & M., by means of pipes and troughs, and there used for irrigation and stock watering purposes, from January 1st until December 31st of each year. Water not to be returned to stream.

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quished suitable fertile soil by which the former soldiers might be enriched. With us this is not possible. We can not or would not claim additional lands; we must meet the great problem of homes and of employment in some other way. How shall we do it? How shall we not only increase the food producing area now but be prepared to continue its increase at an accelerated rate in the near future?

"The United States still owns millions of acres and at first glance it appears as though these might serve as in the past. The more we study these, however, the more we become impressed with the fact that although the extent is vast the proportion is small which can be put to immediate use. The lands have been picked over and over again, and the choice spots selected, especially those which control the necessary water supply. It would be cruel to induce any man without ample funds and without experience to try to

A Pint of Bees.

The phrase "A pint of bees" was used in an English court, and the judge asked what it meant, but did not receive a definite answer. An expert in apiculture says there are 2,100 bees in a pint. Three hundred and thirty-six bees weigh one ounce. A swarm may consist of any number of bees from 2,000 to 40,000. Did anybody ever measure a pint of bees alive?—Boston Globe.

Yes, the Papers!

Villain—Where are those papers?
First Assistant Villain—In the blacksmith shop.

Villain—Ha, ha! I suppose being forged.
First Assistant—No, being filed.—Michigan Gargoyle.

Hence the Name.

"Why do you call that horse 'Colletions'?"
"He's a trifle slow."—Kansas City Journal.

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